

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 COA-02 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00

INT-08 FMC-04 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 NSA-02

RSR-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 /202 W

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R 231733Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3815

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0865

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR IC UK ICJ

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE: FONMIN PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: THE HAGUE 3133

1. SUMMARY. AT JULY 23 PRESS CONFERENCE FONMIN READ GOI
REPLY TO ICJ JULY 12 DECISION ON INTERIM MEASURES IN FISHERIES
DISPUTE IN WHICH WAS STATED GOI WILL RESERVE ALL RIGHTS IN
DISPUTE AND WILL CONTINUE NON-RECOGNITION OF INTERIM MEASURES.
FONMIN SAID THAT THERE WAS "NOTHING NEW" IN DISPUTE WITH UK
BUT THAT MINISTERIAL MEETING WITH FRG WAS STILL PLANNED FOR END
OF AUGUST. HE SAID GOI WILL PROBABLY BRING DISPUTE BEFORE UNGA
THIS FALL. ALSO SAID CURRENT 50-MILE FISHING ZONE WAS INTERIM
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MEASURE TOWARD EVENTUAL 200-MILE ZONE. END SUMMARY.

2. AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN REYKJAVIK JULY 23, FONMIN EINAR AGUSTSSON READ FOLLOWING REPLY FROM GOI TO ICJ CONCERNING LATTER'S DECISION ON INTERIM MEASURES JULY 12: QUOTE I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO YOUR TELEGRAM OF JULY 12TH 1973 CONCERNING THE ORDERS OF THE COURT OF THAT DATE CONTINUING INTERIM MEASURES OF PROTECTION IN THE FISHERIES JURISDICTION CASES. THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND MAINTAINS ALL THE RESERVATIONS PREVIOUSLY MADE WITH REGARD TO ALL QUESTIONS OF JURISDICTION AND ADMISSIBILITY. WITH REGARD TO THE SCIENTIFIC AND FACTUAL ASPECTS I WISH TO STATE THAT SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE SHOWS CLEAR SIGNS OF OVERFISHING OF THE COD STOCKS IN ICELANDIC WATERS. THE PROPORTION OF IMMATURE FISH IN THE TOTAL CATCH OF COD HAS INCREASED AT AN ALARMING RATE IN THE PAST FEW YEARS AND CATCH PER UNIT EFFORT OF ALL VESSEL AND GEAR CATEGORIES HAS GONE DOWN FOR ALL DEMERSAL SPECIES, INCLUDING COD. THIS IS INTER ALIA SHOWN BY THE REPORT OF THE JOINT ICNAF/ICES WORKING GROUP ON THE STATE OF THE COD STOCKS IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THAT REPORT WAS MADE. IN THE OPINION OF MY GOVERNMENT THE CONTINUED MAINTENANCE OF THE INTERIM MEASURES, WHICH HAVE ALREADY LED TO SERIOUS INCIDENTS, WILL CAUSE IRREPARABLE PREJUDICE TO THE RIGHTS OF ICELAND. IT IS ALSO TO BE NOTED THAT, AS APPEARS FROM THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE 27TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORK IN 1973 OF THE SEA-BED COMMITTEE IN PREPARATION FOR THE FORTHCOMING LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TODAY GENERALLY SUPPORTS EXTENSIVE COASTAL JURISDICTION OVER FISHERIES WHICH TAKES FULL ACCOUNT OF THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE COASTAL STATE IN THE CONSERVATION AND EXPLOITATION OF THE RESOURCES OF THE COASTAL AREA. IT IS INTER ALIA IN THE LIGHT OF THIS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND MUST TAKE ALL THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO PROTECT THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE ICELANDIC NATION. IN CONSEQUENCE I HAVE THE HONOUR TO INFORM YOU THAT, WHILE RESERVING ALL ITS RIGHTS, THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND IS UNABLE TO MODIFY ITS POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE INTERIM MEASURES. UNQUOTE.

3. FONMIN SAID THAT THE GOI WILL PROBABLY BRING FISHERIES DISPUTE BEFORE UNGA RATHER THAN UNSC THIS FALL. HE INDICATED UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THERE WAS "NOTHING NEW" TO BE REPORTED REGARDING DISPUTE WITH BRITISH BUT THAT GOI WAS ASSUMING THAT MINISTERIAL MEETINGS ON DISPUTE WILL BE HELD WITH FRG AS SCHEDULED AT THE END OF AUGUST. FONMIN SAID THAT HE HAD HAD NO WORD FROM NATO SECGEN LUNS REGARDING HIS ACTIVITIES IN THE MATTER.

4. AGUSTSSON SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH GOI DELEGATE TO LOS PREPARATORY CONFERENCE AT GENEVA, AMBASSADOR HANS G. ANDERSEN

LATE LAST WEEK. ANDERSEN HAD SAID THAT NORWEGIAN-AUSTRALIAN
RESOLUTION TO EXTEND ECONOMIC JURISDICTION ZONE TO 200 MILES
WAS BEING FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY DELEGATES AT CONFERENCE. FONMIN
ADDED THAT ICELANDIC RESOLUTION AT MARCH CONFERENCE HAD
CALLED FOR MAXIMUM ECONOMIC FISHERIES JURISDICTION ZONE OF 200
MILES. CURRENT EXTENSION OF FISHERIES JURISDICTION TO 50 MILES
HAD NEVER BEEN CONSIDERED BY GOI AS ANYTHING BUT A PHASE TOWARD
200-MILE ZONE.

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